

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 NIC-01 ACDA-05 IO-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EURE-00 OMB-01 /083 W

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P R 121515Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8401

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0543

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, XF, FI

SUBJECT: PRO-PALESTINIAN ACTIVITY INCREASING IN FINLAND

REF: (A) HELSINKI 3119, DEC 28, 1973; (B) HELSINKI A-182,

OCTOBER 24, 1974.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. SINCE THE TIME OF PRESIDENT KEKKONEN'S SPEECH IN NOVEMBER 1973 WHEN HE TURNED FINLAND'S MIDDLE EAST POLICY A FEW DEGREES IN FAVOR OF THE PALESTINIANS, FINNISH ACTION -- UNTIL THE PAST MONTH--HAS BEEN LARGELY RESTRICTED TO CHANGES IN THE WORDING OF JOINT COMMUNIQUES MAKING THEM MORE IN ACCORD WITH ARAB AND SOVIET INTERPRETATIONS OF UN RESOLUTIONS ON ME.

2. RECENT FLURRY OF ACTIVITY STARTED WITH VISIT TO

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FINLAND OF PLO DELEGATION IN MID-FEBRUARY. DELEGATION

WAS LED BY SECRETARY GENERAL OF PALESTINE PEACE AND SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE ABDULLAH EL HURANI. DELEGATION INCLUDED SAAD MOHAMMAD AND FADEL NAHA DESCRIBED AS MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS, ALL THREE BELONG TO PLO CENTRAL COMMITTEE. VISIT WAS TIED TO ME SEMINAR IN HELSINKI ARRANGED BY COMMUNIST-FRONT ORGANIZATIONS, AND PUBLICITY FOR DELEGATION WAS LARGELY CONFINED TO COMMUNIST PRESS.

3. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, AND POSSIBLY AS RESULT OF VISIT, A FINLAND-PALESTINE SOCIETY WAS ESTABLISHED. RADICAL-LEFT SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC M.P. TELLEROV KOIVISTO WAS MADE CHAIRMAN OF THE NEW SOCIETY. SHE WAS QUOTED AS CLAIMING THAT SOCIETY "ONLY AGAINST THOSE GOVERNMENT--NOT PEOPLES--WHICH DO NOT OBSERVE UN DECISIONS". KOIVISTO ALSO SAID THAT SOCIETY "STRIVES TI INFLUENCE FINLAND TO RECOGNIZE PLO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE". VICE CHARMEN OF SOCIETY ARE RADICAL CENTRE PARTY MEMBER MATTI EKKONEN (SON OF PRESIDENT KOKKENON) AND HARD-LINE COMMUNIST HELGE RONTU.

4. THIS WEEK COMMUNIST-FRONT WORLD PEACE COUNCIL, WHICH HEADQUARTERED IN HELSINKI, IS ARRANGING PALESTINE SOLIDARITY WEEK. ACCORDING TO WPC SECRETARY GENERAL ROMESH CHANDRA, MAIN THEMES WILL BE "FOCUSING ATTENTION ON UN PALESTINE RESOLUTIONS AND THE FIGHT TO HAVE MORE GOVERNMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS RECOGNIZE PLO AS OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF ARABS IN PALESTINE". FINLAND-PALESTINE SOCIETY IS ENGAGING IN PARALLEL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.

5. COMMUNIST KANSAN UUTISET TODAY CARRIES STORY QUOTING KOIVISTO TO EFFECT THAT FINLAND-PALESTINE SOCIETY IS IN EARLY STAGES OF PREPARING FOR ITS GREAT GOAL, AN INTERNATIONAL PALESTINE MEETING IN HELSINKI IN MAY 1975--AT WHICH "ISRAELI CRIMES AGAINST ARAB POPULATION IN PALESTINE" WOULD BE INVESTIGATED. KANSAN UUTISET ADDS THAT PURPOSE OF MEETING IS ROUGHLY SAME AS THAT OF "CHILE TRIBUNAL". END UNCLASSIFIED.

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6. BEGIN XGDS-1.

SWEDISH PARTY M.P. AND VICE CHAIRMAN PER STENBACK, WHO ALSO VICE CHAIRMAN OF PARLIAMENT FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, TODAY TOLD POLOFF THAT SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE LARS LINDEMANN HAD RECENTLY SUGGESTED THAT COMMITTEE SEND "STUDY GROUP" TO ME WITH PRIMARY PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING CONTACT WITH PLO,

RELIEVING GOF OF NEED TO DO THIS. STENBACK CLAIMED THAT HE HAD INSISTED THAT SUCH GROUP GO NOT ONLY ALSO BUT FIRST TO ISRAEL. ACCORDING TO STENBACK, COMMITTEE WILL SEND GROUP UNDER COVER OF VISIT TO FINNISH UN TROOPS IN CYPRUS AND ME, BUT ROUTE GROUP THROUGH BIRUT SO THAT SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND COMMUNIST MEMBERS WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY MEET WITH PLO REPRESENTATIVES. STENBACK MAINTAINED THAT HE WOULD REFUSE PARTICIPATE IN TRIP. COMMENT: IT IS LIKELY THAT YOUNG RADICAL SOCIAL DEMOCRATS SEE PALESTINIAN ISSUE AS THE NEW "SEXY" ONE, AND THAT SOCIAL DEMOCRATS IN GENERAL DO NOT WISH TO APPEAR LESS ACTIE THAN KEKKONEN AND CENTRE PARTY OR THEIR FELLOW SWEDISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS. END XGDS-1.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, COMMUNIST FRONT ORGANIZATIONS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975HELSIN00543
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750086-0809
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750359/aaaacazy.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 HELSINKI 3119, 75 DEC 28, 75 1973, 75 HELSINKI A-182
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; RELEASED <08 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; RELEASED <08 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <12 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRO-PALESTINIAN ACTIVITY INCREASING IN FINLAND
TAGS: PFOR, XF, FI, PLO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006